



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2860.0748

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Tohru Kimura et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No.: 10/624,535) Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: July 23, 2003)

For: OBJECTIVE LENS UNIT,)
OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE)
EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME AND)
OPTICAL INFORMATION)
RECORDING AND)
REPRODUCING APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 

David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220

Dated: March 1, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 2860.0748	Appn. No. 10/624,535	
Applicant Tohru Kimura et al.	MAR 01 2004	
Filing Date July 23, 2003	Group: Unassigned	U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	2001/0050894A1	12/13/01	Takeuchi			
	2002/0097508A1	07/25/02	Wada et al.			
	2002/0005996A1	01/17/02	Kitamura et al.			
	2002/0036839A1	03/28/02	Kishima et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	1 304 689 A2	04/23/03	Europe			
	1 199 717 A2	04/24/02	Europe			
	WO 00/41173	07/13/00	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

European Search Report.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner:	Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce